

PIC/JB-8/61

UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION SITE NEAR KABYL-SAY, USSR

The site of the one-kiloton underground high-explosives detonation experiment announced by the USSR as having occurred on 19 December 1957 at 42-12-15N 69-03-02E has been identified (see Figure 1).<sup>1/</sup> The site is about 7.5 nautical miles (nm) SE of Kabyl-Say, 17 nm SE of Arys', and 25 nm SW of Chimkent. According to reports, the site was to consist of a chamber 40 meters underground to accommodate the 1,000 tons of high explosives. The size of the crater that the detonation created was given as 200 meters in diameter and 50 meters deep.<sup>2/ 3/</sup>

25X1D

The site was covered by TALENT photography on [REDACTED] and by KEYHOLE photography on [REDACTED] (see Figure 2).

25X1D

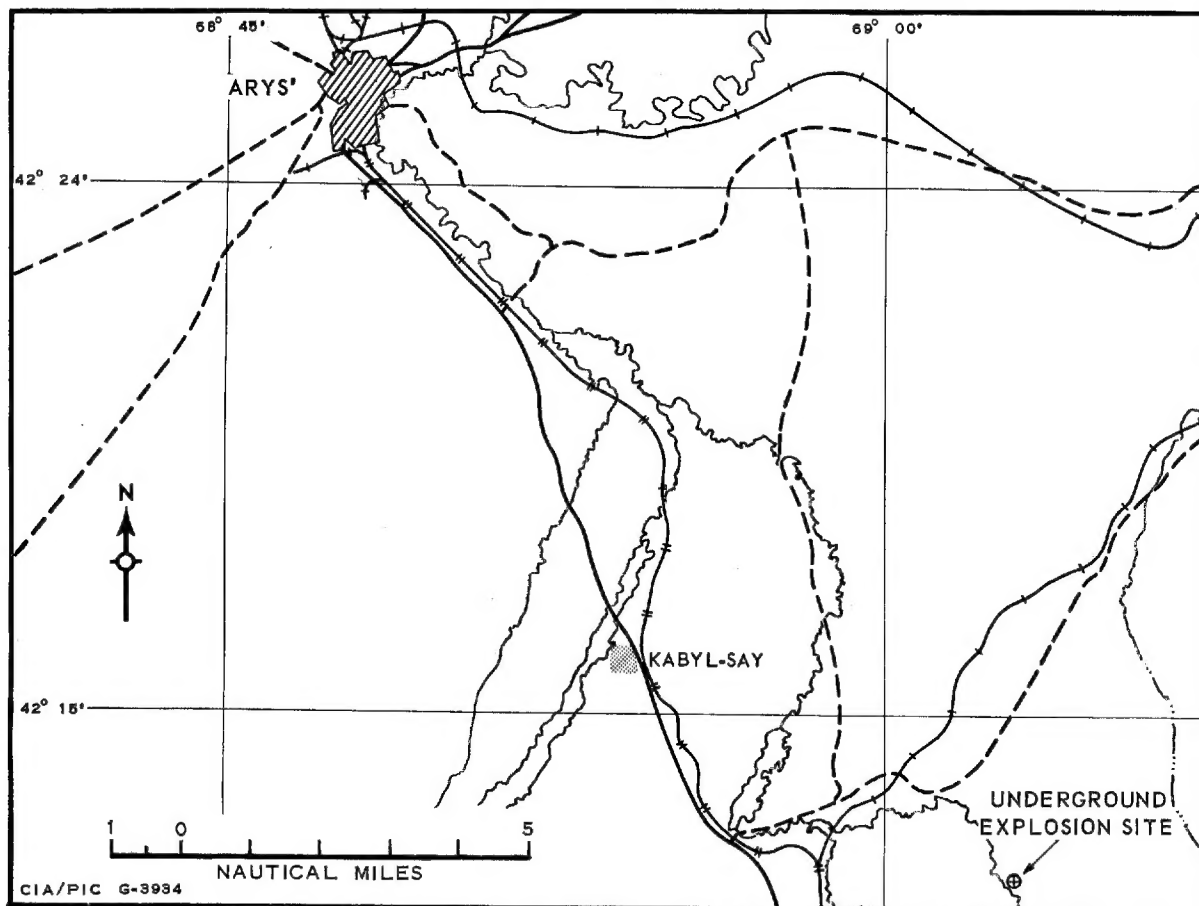


FIGURE 1. MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION SITE.

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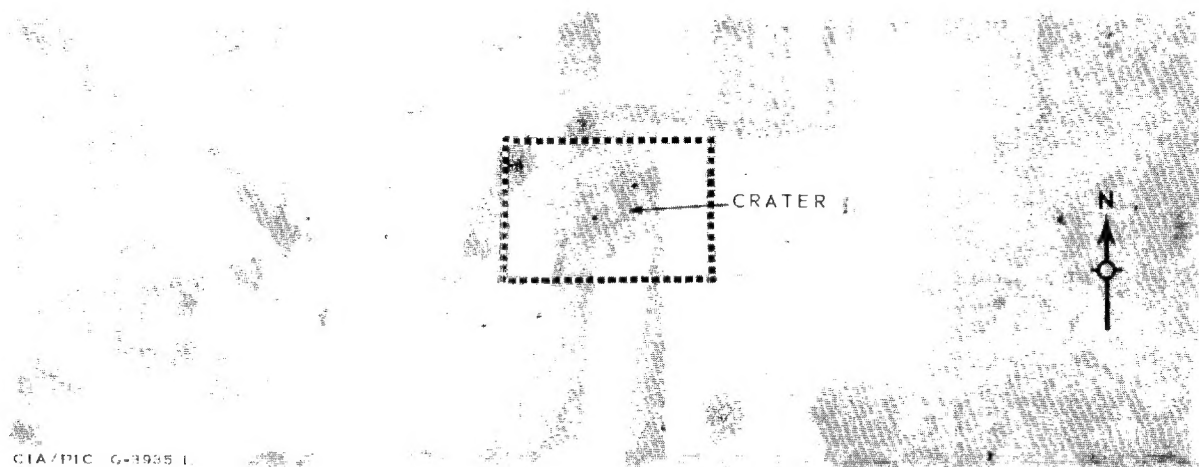


FIGURE 2. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION SITE. Top photo is from TALENT Mission of [REDACTED] bottom from KEYHOLE Mission of [REDACTED] Area outlined in bottom photo represents the extent of the top picture.

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25X1D        The photography [REDACTED] prior to the date of the explosion, reveals unusual activity at the exact point indicated by the Soviet announcement. The small amount of possible excavated materials in the vicinity of the site suggests that work on the chamber was only in its early stages.

25X1D        A large crater is visible on KEYHOLE photography [REDACTED]  
25X1D        at the point of activity shown on the [REDACTED] photography. This confirms  
25X1D        that an explosion had occurred at this point since the [REDACTED] coverage. Although the quality of the KEYHOLE photography precludes precise measurements, it is possible to say that the diameter of the crater is close to the dimension given in the Soviet reports.

#### REFERENCES



#### MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0328-12AL, 1st ed,  
Aug 59, scale 1:200,000 (S)

#### DOCUMENTS

1. Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR, Vol 129, No 6, pp 1283-1286,  
21 Dec 59 (U)
2. AIR, USSR. [REDACTED] Apr 58 (U)
3. "Earthquake or Launching of a Sputnik?" Soviet Union, illustrated  
monthly, No 96, 1958, pp 34-35 (U)

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JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

# UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION SITE NEAR KABYL-SAY, USSR



ARMY



NAVY



CIA

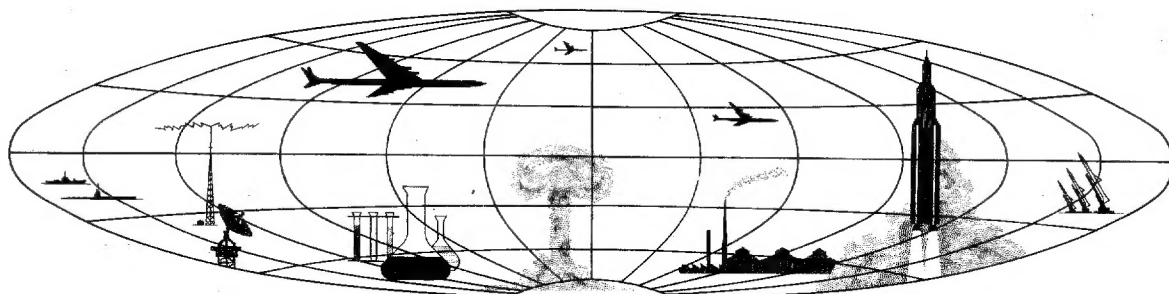
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